

- **Roadway Conditions**

- Existing Characteristics

- NC 108 is a mostly two-lane roadway, which begins at US 176 in Tryon, bisects Columbus and runs southwest-to-northeast through Polk County, connecting to US 221 in Rutherford County. NC 108 intersects with I-26 near Columbus and carries traffic to and from this facility. It connects the towns of Columbus, Tryon and Rutherfordton. Many residents of Columbus travel south on NC 108 to US 176 and to Landrum, SC. Tryon residents travel north to Columbus for work and shopping. It has some sections with three or four lanes. The speed limit along the facility is 35-45 miles per hour (mph) between Tryon and Columbus and 45-55 mph north of Columbus. The roadway serves both commercial and industrial traffic in the planning area.

- Existing Conditions

- The current capacity of this road is 8,000 – 12,000 vehicles per day (vpd). 2003 average annual daily traffic (AADT) along the facility ranges from 8,500 vpd just north of Tryon to 11,000 vpd inside Columbus to 13,000 vpd on sections between Tryon and Columbus. The existence of many driveways accessing NC 108 at various points is a factor that contributes to reducing the roadway capacity.

- Projected Conditions

- Population growth and residential development in the county is expected to increase 2030 traffic volumes along NC 108 to 12,000 - 16,000 vpd. Without any improvements, the level of service by the year 2030 will deteriorate as traffic is expected to continue to grow.

- **Safety Issues**

- For the period from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2005 there were more than 120 crashes reported along NC 108. If no improvements are made to NC 108, the increase in congestion will create the potential for even more traffic crashes. The widening of this facility will provide increased capacity and greater maneuverability resulting in safer driving conditions.

- **Relationship to Other Plans**

- The 1996 Thoroughfare Plan for the Towns of Columbus and Tryon identified the need to widen NC 108 to a four-lane facility, but this recommendation received countywide opposition. A feasibility study addressing proposed improvements to the I-26/US 74/ NC 108 interchange has been completed, and recommendations were made to replace the existing interchange with a new structure and configuration. This project, I-4729, is unfunded in the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- **Project Recommendation:**

- Since this is a NC route, the NCDOT has a vested interest in maintaining it. The ultimate recommendation for this facility is upgrading the section from US 74 to US 176 to a four lane divided section. In the interim several options